

cident Commission that fully 25,000 industrial accidents take place during the twelve-month period. More than one-third of these deaths and accidents are preventable, and each such death or accident constitutes a crime against society and inflicts grievous wrongs on individuals.

APPEALS.

Appeals may be taken from decisions of the Industrial Accident Commission to either the Supreme Court of the State or to the District Court of Appeal.

ATTITUDE OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

You will be interested to know that Mr. Pillsbury, Colonel Weinstock and I have sought for our appointive associates on the Industrial Accident Commission the most competent men and women we could find. From Stanford University we were successful in coaxing Professor Ira B. Cross of the Department of Economics to become our Secretary. C. W. Fellows of Los Angeles was chosen to head the State Compensation Insurance Fund. From Pennsylvania will come John R. Brownell to the important position of Superintendent of Safety. And last, but by no means least, we have for our Medical Director a worthy member of an illustrious house in the medical history of California—Dr. Morton R. Gibbons (applause). These men have not been asked their political affiliation. The Commissioners desire to administer the law in as creditable a manner as possible, and by introducing the merit basis we trust to achieve that end.

OF IMPORTANCE TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

No group of men or women is more desirous of preventing the spread of disease and lengthening the span of human life than your fraternity. And to your credit be this said. To a layman it might seem that you would profit financially should sickness predominate in our community life, but the attitude of doctors the world over places the profession on the highest plane.

It is needless to ask the same splendid co-operation in facing the industrial-accident problem in the State of California. We know that this assistance will be given. The law will have to be tried out, but its sponsors know that all its provisions have been tested elsewhere and have not been found wanting. The members of the Commission will be glad to receive your suggestions for changes in the statute and to secure your unanimous support in administering it during the year ahead.

Naturally, to doctors too much emphasis cannot be laid on the medical and surgical sections. Other states provide unlimited attention for a given period of time. California sets the time at ninety days. The reason for this is that the best and cheapest form of compensation is to rebuild the injured worker regardless of cost. If there is a maximum, there may be a tendency not to furnish the most desirable attention. This best care is cheapest because when the man returns to his employment in the physical condition he would wish, compensation payments cease. The attractive part of the plan is that one of the state's citizens

engaged in productive work resumes his labors. So everybody wins when an industrial accident is mended well and expeditiously.

About this time the thought may come as to the relation of the doctor to his well-earned fee. The answer is that under compensation there will always be a fee for services rendered, while under liability the fees were few and far between because no provision was made for the large majority of injuries, owing to the absence of negligence.

As in Massachusetts, we propose to have the payments based on what would be charged the injured men and women should they have to pay the cost out of their own pockets. This is entirely a fair proposition. It is what you do right along. You take into consideration the financial ability of the patient to pay. If you did not continue this system under compensation, and charged the state and employers generally what "the traffic would bear," the result would be that the medical cost would be top heavy and the whole scheme would fall to the ground. Experience in other states shows that the cost per accident is not high.

We have consulted the best doctors in San Francisco, men whose names are known all over the land. They assure us that we are right in our position, and that the profession will endorse our stand.

Finally, aid us by cheerfully reporting on our blanks all industrial accidents. This may take a little time, but the aim is to find out everything possible about the entire subject, and you are just as much interested in that as we are.

I have to thank you for your courteous attention and for this opportunity to address you on a subject of importance to all.

MEETING OF THE MARIN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

January 15th, 1914, 8 p. m.

The meeting was opened at 8:15 p. m. by Dr. O. W. Jones, President.

The following members were present: Dr. Howitt, Dr. Sullivan, Dr. Stowe, Dr. F. Hund, Sr., Dr. H. Hund, Jr., Dr. O. W. Jones, Dr. W. F. Jones, Dr. Dufficy, Dr. Dudley, Dr. Stone, Dr. Kuser and Dr. Mays.

The business of the meeting being a discussion of the Boynton Act and its consequences upon the medical profession of the state.

Motion was made and seconded to induce the State Society to make a fee list acceptable to the members of the State Society, it being the opinion that lay people should not take it upon themselves to regulate the fees of the medical profession.

Motion made and seconded that the members of this society will strictly adhere to the fees that have been in vogue in this county for years, and that the time-honored principle of the patient being allowed to choose his own physician should be absolutely adhered to.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10 p. m.

A. H. MAYS, Secretary.